Amos A. Phelps

Boston July 14. 1837

Dear Wife

I have been waiting some time, in the hope of redeeming my promise of a "longer letter" when I wrote you. Whether I shall do so remains to be seen. I met brother Lee at North Brookfield as you expected, also brother Trask & quite a number of old friends. On the 4th. I went to Fall River, had quite a pleasant meeting, & returned on the 5th to Taunton, where I addressed the children at 1 o'clock P.M. & left at 4 o'clock for Boston. Of course I saw no "Taunton friends" except Hodges Reed & some few abolition friends. Last Sabbath I preached for a good abolition Baptist brother at Cambridgeport, & lectured there on Tuesday Evening. Next Sabbath I go to Haverhill, where they are vacant, supply the desk during the day, & lecture in the evening. The rest of my time is occupied here. So much for my labors. I find them on the whole pleasanter than in New York, & yet I think that one year hence will probably find me settled in the ministry. This however is for you only, & not for mother or any one else.

The "Duplicates" are "to be preserved". The Sabbath School Visitor, Record & H. Rights are for distribution.

P.S. I had almost forgotten to tell you that I am well. I think you will find your situation much pleasanter here than in New York. There is quite a number of good abolition ladies here that I think you will feel at home among. I cannot yet say whether we shall keep house or not. I rather think not.

The Advocate of Moral Reform, so far as there are duplicate copies can be distributed if you think best. I do not remember however whether those there were all intended for distribution or not.

Brother Moore & Harriet were here yesterday – as happy as kings. Dea. Fisk is going to build them a house, & in the spring they intend to go to house keeping; so that if we remain here, we can go out & board with them in the Summer. Matters are going on so so at Wrentham. Aunt Polly is dead, Nelson & wife are to keep house & uncle Benjn is to board – also Aunt Nelson keeps house at the the other place & Grandfather boards! The failure at New York bids fair to be a bad one.

I expect to spend Sabbath after next at Natick, – stay two or three days – ~~to~~ lecture, get money, visit, eat cherries &c. &c.

I saw Dea. Fitch here a few days since – all well except Nathaniel, who has about given up all hope of piety, & is in a despairing dejected state of mind. Mr. Hall will probably leave soon. They are all in a snarl there – have had no singing for some weeks – have a new Baptist Church at the upper part of the town – and a flourishing orthodox society at the lower part of it. Dea. Morse's little daughter, the eldest, is deranged & in the hospital at Worcester.

The man at Newark keeps

Miss Martineau's book & the lectures of the Misses Grimké, are making a great stir among the clergy. They are all agog because two quaker women talk in meetings! The General Association have rung an alarm on the subject — Winslow has been preaching to the Women to keep silence in the churches, & on the whole there is quite a panic among the clergy on the subject. Poor souls! they would do well to put on petticoats & done with it. Indeed I ~~doubts~~ [illegible] ~~suspecting~~ ~~whether~~ suspect diapers would not be amiss on some of them! It is really humiliating to see men behave as some of our good ministers do.

My present intention is to be at Springfield or Northampton on the 1st of August — spend some three weeks about there & then come for you. At any rate, Providence permitting, you will see me by the first of Sept. Tell Huldah she must be a good girl, & Ralph a good boy, & as for my dear little boy, tell him Papa wants to see him very much, and so does aunt Hyte & uncle Moore. Give him a kiss for Papa, & tell him Papa come in a few weeks.

We have just succeeded in liberating a slave here, with the probability that her liberation will secure that of her husband. Now tell me if I have not kept my promise. Love to mother & all, & believe me as ever Yours affecte husband A. A. Phelps.

The man at Newark kept our carpet & is to forward the money soon.

A.A.P L
Mrs Charlotte Phelps
My mother
Sample of [illegible] - E.A.P.
Relating to action of clergy

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Mrs. Charlotte Phelps
Farmington
Ct.

P.S. I had almost forgotten to tell you that I am well. I think you will